

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 4 – 9, without prejudice, and amend claim 11, as noted below. As amended, the Status Of The Claims Will be as follows:

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1 – 3 (Previously Canceled)

4 – 9 (Canceled)

10. (Previously Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A container, said container having a body portion with a closed bottom, a neck portion axially positioned above said body portion, said neck portion tapering inwardly as it extends away from said body portion, and a closure-receiving finish portion, said neck portion being positioned between said body portion and said finish portion, said container being adapted to a hold a large volume of a liquid, being formed in a single piece by molding from a thermoplastic material that has at least an innermost layer of PET, said container further having no opening extending laterally therethrough and having a gripping gripping feature formed by a spaced apart pair of axially extending, opposed gripping panels that extend into said container ~~and extend parallel to one another~~, the space (S) between said gripping panels being uniform in width along an a substantial axial length portion of said gripping feature and the space between gripping panels being no more than 2-1/2 in.;

wherein said body portion is generally circular in cross-section,  
and said gripping panels extend into said container in said neck portion; and  
said body portion has a diameter of at least 4-1/4 in.

12. (Original) A container according to claim 11, wherein:  
said container has an internal capacity of at least 64 oz.

13. (Original) A container according to claim 12 wherein:  
each of said gripping panels is concave in cross-section.

14. (Previously Amended) A container according to claim 13  
wherein:

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a ratio of the space between opposed gripping panels, as  
measured between depths of said gripping panels, to the major lateral extent of  
said container does not exceed 0.55.

15. (Original) A container according to claim 14 wherein said ratio is  
at least 0.35.

16. (Original) A container according to claim 15 wherein said ratio is  
approximately 0.41.

17. (Previously Canceled)

18. (Previously Canceled)

19. (Previously Canceled)

20. (Previously Added) A container according to claim 11

wherein:

said neck portion is generally non-circular in cross-section with a large width end and a smaller width opposed end, said opposed gripping panels extending into said neck portion from said opposed end.

21. (Previously Added) A container according to claim 11

wherein:

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said container is adapted for packaging a still beverage that is introduced, while hot, into the container and is sealed in the container by applying a closure to the finish portion of the container while the beverage is still hot, said body portion having a circumferentially spaced apart plurality of inwardly projecting panels for partial collapsing to accommodate shrinkage of the packaged beverage as it cools.

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